

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please insert the following new replacement paragraph:

[0034] The barrel nut also has a set of outer circumvolving grooves 120 circumvolving an outer surface 118 portion of the barrel nut 110. These circumvolving grooves 120 are adapted to connect with compatibly configured threaded portions of a lock nut 140, and to hold a slip-fit type gas ring adapter 130 in a desired tight position against an outer ledge portion 122 of the outer surface 118 of the barrel nut 110.

Please insert the following replacement paragraph:

[0036] The quick change assembly 100 is also comprised of a [gas tube and hand guard support]slip fit type gas ring adapter 130. This [support ring]gas ring adapter 130 may have any of a number of shapes but must be configured to fit over the barrel nut 110. The [gas tube and hand guard support]ring adapter has[have] a pair of tabs 132 extending from the support ring 130. These tabs 132 are configured to be placed on either side of an upper handle of an upper receiver assembly 12 of one of the aforementioned rifles. A groove 134 extends from the first end 136 of the support ring to the second end 138 of the [support]gas ring adapter 130 and is adapted to receive a portion of a gas tube 22 therein.

Please insert the following replacement paragraph:

[0038] The third part of the nut assembly is a locknut 140 that locks the support ring 130 in place along the outer surface 118 of the barrel nut 110. The locknut 140 is generally cylindrical having an inner portion 142 defining a series of grooves that are adapted to combine with the threads on the outer surface 120 of the barrel nut 110. The locknut 140 can be tightened to compressively engage the support ring 130 against the barrel nut 110. The locknut 140, like the barrel nut 110, may have a series of holes 144 therein which are adapted to fit with a spanner wrench, or other tool that can be used to adjustably tighten and release the locknut [144]140 from the barrel nut assembly. An example of this type of spanner wrench is shown in Fig. 7. This spanner wrench 200 is designed to be small for easy portability while also having a portion adapted to connect with an elongated device such as a bayonet or other device which is commonly carried by a soldier.

[0040] A new barrel can be replaced by simply inserting the barrel 10 into the upper receiver 12, tightening the barrel nut 110, placing the [slip]ring adapter 130 in a desired position, aligning the gas tube 22 within the designated slot 134 of the [slip]ring adapter 130 and compressing the locknut 140 against the support ring 130. This enables a variety of barrels 10 to be removed in conceivably less than one minute without the use of tools, which is a tremendous advantage when compared to the barrel nut system used in the prior art.